

## WASHINGTON.

## Credit Mobilier's Investigation Stock Infated.

## Inside Report of the Committee Meeting and Powwow.

## BROOKS IN A DEFENSIVE ATTITUDE.

## Presidential Backdown on Civil Service.

## General Spinner on the Distribution of Currency Through National Banks.

## OLD TIMES SPREADING HIMSELF.

## Whiskey and Tobacco Internal Revenue Stamps as Aids in the Late Campaign.

## DISCOMFORTHING IN THEIR SEATS.

## Unpaid Postage Matter—Internal Canal Jobs—American Inventors and the Vienna Exposition.

## WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1872. Debate in the Investigating Committee—Schuyler Colfax and Oakes Ames on the Stand—Evident Intention to Smother the Evidence.

The love feast of the Credit Mobilier disciples has been commencing, and we shall now have explanations, accusations, recriminations and replications from the ten or a dozen Congressmen whose names are in circulation here as having been enriched by the mighty Ames. It having been pretty well established that each share of this stock, the par value of which was \$100, has since netted between nine hundred and one thousand dollars, in currency, accurate calculations can soon be made as to the amounts that were pocketed or paid to men's wives, or accepted as loans, or virtuously refused. Some of the promised explanations will be very funny, especially those of the men who, when candidates last fall, asserted in the most solemn manner that they had never received a dime, directly or indirectly. Even the President and the future Vice President will have to tell what they know about the Credit Mobilier.

When the House special committee met this morning the venerable Poland submitted to his associates this conundrum:—"What shall we do with the lawyers?" Even Judge Merrick was obliged to give it up, and there was no one on the committee who would attempt to answer a serious question, unless, perhaps, it was the Judge himself; but modestly forbade. Again he propounded in the most solemn judicial manner, "What, gentlemen, shall we do to get rid of the lawyers? Here is Judge Black, with his inquisitorial tongue, on one side and Caleb Cushing on the other. Where will this investigation end if a legal quarrel is sanctioned by this committee?"

Niblack, of Indiana, suggested that it would probably end as the Kilkenny cat fight ended—only the tails were left, and in this case they would be the legal disputants.

"But," replied the grave and venerable Chairman, "it is the tails we most desire to avoid. Just let Black and Cushing commence to wrangle, and Senatorial term would not be long enough to investigate the Credit Mobilier."

Here entered Schuyler Colfax. Everybody was glad to see him; for his smile was as broad as his responsibility. He was asked what he knew about farming out the Credit Mobilier stock. Schuyler said he was not a farmer, but the Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, and he thought such a question impertinent. He then explained that he had no explanations to make, whereupon the committee, while acknowledging that he occupied an exalted position, yet did not exempt him from some troublesome questions.

"Did you, or did you not," asked Judge Poland, "accept, receive or take into your personal possession certain shares of the Credit Mobilier?"

Answered by Schuyler Colfax:—"I never owned or received any Credit Mobilier stock, nor have I ever any transaction with Mr. Oakes Ames involving stocks or credits, or anything else in the way of money matters."

Question—"Are you not interested in the prosperity of the Pacific Railroads generally?"

Answer—"I am, for the reason that I believe that all the railroads constructed to the Pacific coast will be so many highways of inland commerce."

Question—"Do you own any stock in any of the Pacific Railroads?"

Answer—"I do; but I acquired them in the ordinary course of business transactions."

Question—"Then you know nothing of the workings of the Credit Mobilier?"

Answer—"I have not the slightest knowledge of any of its operations, and a specific answer to the charge was made by myself during the recent campaign."

It was here concluded to allow Mr. Colfax to resume his seat in the Senate, and the Vice President, after a cordial handshake, made his exit. Then came into Court the aforementioned Mr. Oakes Ames, with Judge Black as legal protector, and one, and only one Oakes Ames, also legally protected by the venerable Caleb Cushing. The antagonistic counsel looked at each other, and the venerable Judge from Vermont looked at them both. They all looked at each other, and when decorum was procured Judge Black said that he wanted light in regard to the infamous allegations against his client.

Oakes Ames smiled quizzically and peered through his spectacles at a volume of papers, which contained all his testimony concerning the Credit Mobilier, prepared in advance by himself, with the aid of the learned Caleb Cushing. This the committee was requested to hear. It was partially read, when Judge Black interposed, and, assuming an inquisitorial air, asked Oakes Ames to answer some of the conundrums he was about to propound. Ames, at this interruption, looked more quizzical. He said:—

"I am under no obligation to answer any question asked by you. The examination, as understood, is to be conducted by the committee. You are here merely on interference."

"Tut, tut," said Caleb Cushing; "don't be too hasty."

Judge Black waxed wrathful. "I have as good a right here to represent my client as Mr. Cushing has to represent you."

Judge Poland here interferred. "Do not quarrel, gentlemen; let us have no wrangling. Mr. Black, you have no right to cross-examine Mr. Ames. The committee will do that. You are here merely to watch the interest of your client, not to take any part in the examination."

Following the words of Mr. Brooks in

the House came Mr. Poland. He was grave and looked dignified. The noise of the members resuming their seats disturbed the peace of the orderly session. The venerable Poland stood erect. The Speaker intimated an assault upon his desk with his ivory gavel. How after blow fell in rapid succession. Finally the members got into their seats and Mr. Poland said that he had nothing to say except that what he had read in the newspapers concerning the testimony given before the committee was in the main untrue, and nothing had thus far been elicited to implicate any member of the House. Judge Merrick then asked to take the sense of the House as to whether the investigation should be conducted with open doors. Mr. Young, of Georgia, had his resolution read asking for an extended and public investigation, which was published in this correspondence yesterday. Mr. Sargent demanded the regular order of business, but when appealed to by Mr. Wood, of New York, the latter offered a resolution at the suggestion of Judge Merrick to test the sense of the House as to whether the committee should sit with closed doors. On the republican side of the House this resolution was a dilemma. To accept it would be to expose themselves; to reject it would show fear of a searching investigation. In a hurried and excited manner Mr. Perce, of Mississippi, the parrot of the republican side, exclaimed, "I object," which was sufficient to kill the resolution. It is now well established that the republicans in the House will not venture upon a fair investigation. Under the rules the resolution offered by Mr. Wood cannot be entertained except by unanimous consent of the House until the 26th of January next, when Congress will meet on Monday. It is well understood that the present committee will do all in its power to smother investigation, and toward the close of the session may make a report which will be printed by order of the House and set daylight in the summer of 1873, when Congress is as dead as the tombstones in the Congressional cemetery.

## Congressman Brooks in Self-Defense—A Manly Statement—Light on His Assaults and Transactions.

As foreshadowed in the HERALD's Washington correspondence of yesterday, Mr. James Brooks replied to-day in the House to the allegations of McComb before the Credit Mobilier Investigating Committee. The members were prepared for the explanation and were largely in attendance, for the Credit Mobilier is now the theme of all absorbing interest. As Mr. Brooks made his opening remarks, the noise and confusion usually prevailing in the House subsided to a silence almost solemn in its intensity. Members went to lounge about in the galleries in a listless manner, became suddenly attentive. A great number of democrats and republicans vacated their seats and stood in a semicircular group around the hero of the sensation. The Speaker's mallet, which usually comes down with a thump on an average every five minutes, remained inactive for nearly an hour, for the occasion of Mr. Brooks' remarks caused the members to put themselves in his place. Brooks arose, with a copy of the HERALD in his hand, saying:—"I find a report in the NEW YORK HERALD before the Committee of Investigation, by a person named McComb, with having received fifty shares of the Credit Mobilier as a bribe, in order to influence the domestic side of the House in the vote of that company." Brooks was evidently in the vein. He was at times discursive and given to flights of rhetoric, but his speech was regarded by many as a blow to McComb. He gave a detailed account of his past and present connection with the Union Pacific Railroad and McComb's dealings with the same, the substance of which account was contained in yesterday's despatch of the HERALD. He also alluded to the records of McComb's fraudulent transactions in the War Department and to his fraudulent acquisition of the Jackson Railroad. In the latter transaction both Warmoth and Pinchback played a part. According to the report of an investigating committee McComb bought the whole Legislature of Louisiana for \$50,000, paying \$500 for each member, except Pinchback and two or three others, whose prices appear to have been fixed at \$2,000 each. Mr. Brooks also denied McComb's allegation, but swore before God and his countrymen that he never used his influence in the House of Representatives for the sake of money. With reference to the allegation that his son-in-law (Mr. Nelson) had received fifty shares of Credit Mobilier as a bribe for his (Mr. Brooks') account he produced a certificate for fifty shares, registered in the name of Charles Nelson, and a receipt showing payment therefor at a price above premium. This made quite a sensation. The spectators, who had heard so much about Credit Mobilier, were glad for the first time with the sight of actual stock. Of this simple transaction McComb is said to have woven his charge of bribery against Mr. Brooks.

## Bills Offered in the House—American Inventors and the Vienna Exposition.

General Banks offered a number of bills to-day. He asked for appropriations for the survey of the boundary line between the island of San Juan and the British possessions. He also presented a bill to appropriate \$100,000 for the oceanic representation of the United States at the Vienna Exposition. This called forth an animated discussion. Mr. Shellabarger said that the law of Austria and the practice of that government is such that the exhibition of American inventions will result injuriously to our people, because the Austrians would flock the American patents. General Garfield again urged his objection to the appropriation of money in a loose way, and asked that the bill be referred to his committee. It went over, and will probably pass, although there is bitter opposition to it on account of the unjust patent laws of Austria.

## Postmaster Eastman, of Chicago, to-day tendered his resignation to the President, to take effect on the 14th of February next. Senator Logan, of Kansas, has been named as Eastman's successor. Notwithstanding the recommendations in favor of the promotion of Chief Clerk Squires the President promised to disregard civil service regulations in this instance and appoint Mr. Arthur. It is well known that Senator Logan is a bitter opponent of civil service reform and believes in rewarding those who stood by the government during the rebellion. Hence his support of General McCarty.

## A Shrewd Election Fraud and Trick.

One of the most important bills passed at the last session of Congress in the interest of jobbers was one authorizing the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to select such device or devices as in his judgment were best adapted for the cancellation of whiskey, beer and tobacco stamps. During the campaign immediate action was essential to secure large sums of money for political purposes. Fifty thousand dollars were being promised by Pennsylvania. Day after day the agents of the party, including Senators and Representatives, visited the Treasury Department to see what progress had been made. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue and one of the deputy commissioners were threatened with removal if they did not push the matter. Brewers and distillers in the ring presented arguments demanding the adoption of some device to protect them, as they claimed, from the tricks of dishonest dealers. Nothing, however, was done, and the wonderful spectacle is presented to-day of the very members of Congress who acted in the capacity of agents of what was intended as a gigantic fraud denouncing the scheme.

## Spoils Claims in the Senate—Discomfited Senators on Hand and Nervous.

The Senate devoted the day just passed to a rehearsal of those good old arguments for and against the payment of the French spoliation claims which have been so long a theme of the House of Representatives. In vain did Cragin endeavor to get the House to build new war vessels or considered, or to secure a night session for discussing this important measure. Cameron is bound to have the Senate again pass the French Spoliation bill, and he will, doubtless, get it through to-morrow. What the House will then do with it no man knows, but the prospects for its success there are not brilliant. Nye made his first appearance for the session on the floor of the Senate to-day, and seemed determined to laugh over his prospective defeat for reelection. Schurz is also back in his seat, endeavoring

to sit quietly and listen, but evidently nervous and agitated.

## Colorado's Bill.

The House Committee on Territories has unanimously agreed to report a bill admitting Colorado as a State. The bill will undoubtedly be defeated when it reaches the Senate, as the sentiment in that body is against increasing the number of their associates.

## The bill for constructing ten sloops-of-war will meet with opposition when it again comes before the House, and will result in the appointment of a conference committee.

## New Plans of the Weather Prophets—Forecasters and Postmasters to Learn How the Wind Blows.

On the 9th inst. the Secretary of War enclosed to the Postmaster General a letter from the Chief Signal Officer, and asked his co-operation in the mode indicated for the distribution of the daily weather reports. The Chief Signal Officer says the plan suggested seems to offer a more immediate and extensive method of reaching the whole interior and agricultural populations of the United States with information in which each citizen has an interest than any hitherto put in use in any country in the world. The plan of work is to divide the territory east of the Mississippi into districts of about two hundred miles in diameter, each district having a distributing point at or near its center, from which two copies of the reports will be mailed daily to all post offices accessible by rail or mail coach by six P. M. of each day. At each post office the postmaster is to post one copy of each report as soon as received in a frame, to be furnished by the Signal Office, which frame will be put up in a conspicuous part of the office where it can be seen and the bulletin read by the public without difficulty.

The second copy is intended for the personal use of the Postmaster, and may be disposed of in the manner he thinks best calculated to diffuse the information it contained.

The Postmaster General, heartily approving of the plan, has issued the following order, and says any further assistance that may be desired from his department will be most cheerfully given:—

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1872.

Arrangements have been made between the Post Office and War Departments by which one or more of the daily weather reports issued by the Signal Office will be furnished daily to all post offices, and can be reached from the several points of distribution daily by mail. As these reports are designed for the benefit of the agricultural and commercial interests of the country the Postmaster General instructs all postmasters receiving them to post them immediately in the frames supplied for the purpose by the Signal Office.

## JOHN A. CRESSWELL, Postmaster General.

## The Great Internal Canal Jobs—A Bill to be Reported in the House.

The House Committee on Commerce to-day heard the argument on the question of the Atlantic and Great Western Canal to unite the Mississippi with the Atlantic. The room was filled at an early hour by members of Congress from Alabama, Georgia and Virginia. Colonel B. W. Trobel, a commissioner appointed by the Governor of Georgia to examine the route of the canal, was present.

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a deposit in discretionary with the bank, irrespective of the kind of money tendered.

## Notice to Ultra-Marine Sculptors.

All sculptors proposing to present models for a statue of the late Admiral Farragut must forward them by the 1st of January, 1873. The northeast corridor, under the reception room of the Senate wing of the Capitol, has been designated by the committees of the Senate and the House as the place where all such models will be received and examined.

## Unpaid Postal Matter.

The House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads to-day agreed to report a bill declaring the true intent and meaning of sections 106, 151 and 152 of the Post Office act passed last session are that where one full rate of postage has been paid on mail matter it shall be forwarded to its destination charged with the unpaid rate, to be collected on delivery, and that no double rate of postage shall be collected where such partial prepayment has been made.

## Nominations.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate to-day:—George Bliss, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; Leander Colt, Postmaster at Suspension Bridge, N. Y.; Enoch Jacobs, of Ohio, Consul at Montevideo; George A. Jaeger and Eugene Cushman, of Pennsylvania, and Robert T. Lyons, of Delaware, to be Second Lieutenants in the army.

## THE CREDIT MOBILIER.

## An Amusing History for Uninterested Parties.

CONGRESSIONAL PROS AND CONS.

## Bad Whitewashing Smeared At by an Observant Letter Writer.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1872.

A Washington despatch of the 13th inst., in speaking of the investigation before the Committee of the House relative to the alleged use of the stock of Credit Mobilier for purposes of bribery, says:—

McComb's recollection was very obscure and he could positively swear to little. John B. Ailey, the second editor of the Signal Office, who was curing proper railroad legislation when he was a member of the House, was rightly ignorant, and so was J. W. Nelson, a prominent merchant, interested in the railroad, who secured his election to the next Congress when it was found that Oakes Ames' constituents voted that they would not vote for him again.

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